

THE

FW93



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THE ABOVE PHOTOGRAPH WAS PROCESSED FROM AN EARLY
LANTERN SLIDE. IT IS PART OF A SET APPROPRIATELY
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OUR ORGANIZATION

AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 25790, TAMARAC, FLA. 33320

(305) 726-0333



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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF A.I.N.A.

The AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION is a cultural and educational organization dedicated to the study and collection of Israel's coinage, past and present, and all aspects of Judaica Numismatica. It is a democratically organized, membership oriented group, chartered as a non-profit association under the laws of the State of New York.

As an educational organization, the primary responsibility is the development of programs, publications, meeting and other activities which will bring news, history, technical, social and related background to the study of numismatics. Membership is open to all men and women of goodwill and to clubs who share the common goals of the Association.

The Association is the publisher of THE SHEKEL, a quarterly, journal and news magazine prepared for the enlightenment and education of the membership. It neither solicits or accepts advertising, paid or unpaid. Its views are the views and opinions of the writers and the pages and columns are open to all who submit material deemed by the editors to be of interest to the members.

The Association sponsors such major cultural/social/numismatic events as an annual Study Tour of Israel, national and regional conventions and such other activities and enterprises which will benefit the members. Dues are paid annually at \$10.00 per year; life memberships are offered to all at \$150.00. Junior membership (under 18) \$2.50 per year. Your interest and participation will be welcomed by any of the affiliated clubs or as a general member of the Association.

THE AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, INC. / An Educational Informational Non-Profit Organization: Membership \$10.00 per year.
Send all remittances, undelivered magazines, change of address and zip code with old address label to P.O. Box 25790, Tamarac, Florida 33320.

EDWARD SCHUMAN, *Editor*

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President's Message

All of you have heard or read the biblical passage, "a time to sow, a time to reap." This is A.I.N.A.'s time to sow. The Executive Board, your officers and Board of Directors, and myself are busy planning short-and-long term goals for A.I.N.A. Many changes will become evident.

This SHEKEL is the first - a change in editors. We welcome back Edward Schuman with the promise that each issue will be creative and original. Less convention activity and more information for you will be the order of the day. George Gilbert did an outstanding job for us, for which we are grateful. The change was necessitated because of savings in production costs. A.I.N.A. wants you to get six issues again. Ed will give us an excellent magazine without sacrificing quality or regularity.

Fred Roganson will be handling the tour for 1988. It will be a memorial tour honoring our founder. Details on the tour will come later.

Sylvia Haffner Magnus will be running the office from Florida. However, the Executive Board is researching further options to decentralize.

I have contacted each of the Directors and other key people to ask for their help. If I missed you or you want to help, please let me know. I need all the brains, hands, and feet that I can get.

I promise you that A.I.N.A. will not wither and die during this administration. On the contrary, the new administration accepts the challenge and responsibility with confidence that it can first stabilize, and then move forward. Morris would be pleased to hear this.

Shalom,

Stan Yulish

THE EDITOR'S PAGE

About six months ago, I was asked by Morris Bram if I would consider editing the Shekel once again. The run away expenses of printing and editing the magazine in New York City were slowly bankrupting the organization. We had just about reached an understanding when Morris died. Stan Yulish has given me a budget, and hopefully I can get out six issues in 1988.

George Gilbert did an excellent job with limited material. Since I have been an astute specialist in numismatic judaica for more than forty years, I can share some of my goodies with the Shekel readers again. The Haym Salamon story, using actual pages of the congressional records from my collection are worth reading. The story has a poignant ending. Ed Janis and the Aleph Beth page have returned after an absence of more than eight years. We will have a INS club numismatic article each month starting in January, contributed by members of the Westchester Israel Numismatic Society. Yasha Beresiner, whom I recently visited in London, has consented to do a "News and Views" column for the Shekel on a regular basis. My wife and I were in South Africa the end of September, and found material for a couple of really different judaic articles. They will appear in the next issues. Jewish people played a very important role in this nation's history.

Typesetting is one of the biggest money grabbers in the production of the magazine. A.I.N.A. has provided me with a small word processor, and in time, hopefully I will become more proficient in its useage. We may not be fancy, but we will be neat and readable and cost effective. Shirley and Jack Garfield have inserted and packaged the magazine for us. Henry Kramarz, the President of the I.N.S. of Greater Miami, has volunteered all photograpy work. As 1987 draws near its end, we wish our readers a very Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year. For those looking for a Christmas or Hanukka gift, please be sure and read the inside back cover. It is a fantastic value. You won't be sorry.

Levi Strauss

Levi Strauss & Co.
Incorporated December 1890

No. 3738

San Francisco, Dec 10 1899

Pay to The Sierra County Bank Hillsboro

Eighty Dollars

with exchange on New York or San Francisco.

for value received and charge to account

To Messrs Keller Miller & Co
Lake Valley

Y 1899

Levi Strauss & Co.
HILLSBORO, NEW MEXICO

The Sierra County Bank

\$ 50.¹⁵

sight, please

Levi Strauss & Co.
Incorporated December 1890

Received of Charles Keller Miller & Co

for the sum of \$ 80.¹⁵

the 10th day of Dec 1899

Levi Strauss & Co.





LEVI STRAUSS MEDAL
FROM MAGNUS MUSEUM

Shalom from America !

Jews in the Gold Rush

In my previous letters to you I told of my long journey from Frankfurt-am-Main to the Far West, to California, the Land of Gold. I described how we plodded across the land of Panama, between the two Oceans, and how we then shipped north to this new Gold Coast ; but I do not remember mentioning that, by the time I arrived here, I was left without a cent, for I had to pay \$700 for

never thought of going so far West. You can imagine my surprise at finding that some 20,000 Jews have preceded me to California !

Why, then, the wild rush to California, an uncivilised territory ceded to the United States barely two years ago and still not officially incorporated or made into a state ? Simply because, about a year ago, gold was discovered some 100 kilometres north of

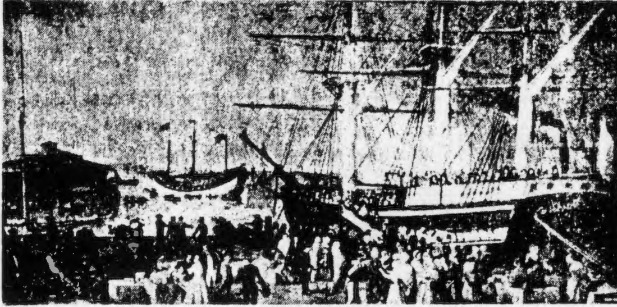
something and being robbed of my spoils and having my bones broken.

Treasure in Trousers

But after all, this is the land of gold, so why not reverse the practice of the alchemists and turn gold into a baser but more current coin ? I have therefore set myself up as a tailor, making trousers for the goldminers—jeans in local parlance, generally referred to as "Levi's jeans." The jeans are called after another Jew, Levi Strauss from Hamburg, if I am not mistaken, who by the same reasoning I have described, decided to make his fortune from selling tents to the miners. With this in view, he brought twenty cartloads of tarpaulin from San Francisco but, to his chagrin, found that the gold-diggers preferred to stay out in the open, perhaps because this way there is less chance of a surprise attack. How was Levi to pay for the tarpaulin he had taken on commission ? How feed himself and his horses ? As he was looking about him in despair, he noted the ragged clothing of the miners, torn to shreds by the rough soil they were rummaging in. This gave him his great idea : to use the tarpaulin for trousers.

The first lot was sold in a jiffy. Within three months he had made twenty return trips, and the money kept pouring in. And now I, too, have joined the Levi bandwagon. I am sewing jeans for Levi, or, rather, I am sewing Levi's jeans.

EMANUEL NEUMAN



Jewish immigrants land at New York

two square yards of space on board.

I was afraid there would not be a *minyan* for prayers. What was my surprise, when I found not only one, but two synagogues ; one for my compatriots, Jews of German origin, and the second for Jews from Poland. However, since the German Jews soon started with their Reformist nonsense, I preferred to join the Poles.

However, I did not come here to pray. Like tens of thousands of other Jews, most of them from Germany, I came here to make a new life for myself in this New World. Initially, I was convinced I would stay in New York, and

San Francisco.

At first whole nuggets were found lying on the ground. Soon, however, careful prospecting and digging were required. This means staying out in the open all day to dig, and keeping a careful watch at night to fend off anyone liable to poach on your claim. And poaching is current practice, because who is to impose law and order ? Initially there still were a few Jews who tried their hand at the game, but now most of them have found easier and, possibly, more lucrative employment.

As for myself, I have decided to stay away from the rush and not to risk finding nothing, or finding

THIS IS A TRANSLATION OF A LETTER WRITTEN
BY A JEWISH IMMIGRANT BACK TO HIS HOMELAND
AT THE TIME OF THE GOLD RUSH IN 1849.

'Gold Rush' Building Sold

A bank whose sturdy vaults once were piled high with the Sierra riches of gold rush miners was sold yesterday without a penny in its coffers.

The historic three story brick building, on the corner of Montgomery and Commercial Sts., was sold by Edwin Happersberger to restaurant operators Ansel Casentini and G. Puccinelli for \$150,000.

Now housing a coffee shop and business offices, it had not been used for its original purpose for 50 years but the huge vaults remained as reminders of its colorful past.

The building was erected in the 1850s by the House of Rothschild and was one of the first banks in San Francisco. It was operating as Davidson and Rothschild when it was destroyed by fire in 1854 and was rebuilt around the original vaults.

Plans for its use by the new owners are not known. The transaction, for both the seller and purchasers, was handled by Robert Politzer of James Hurst & Co.

Newsclip from S.F. Examiner 3/23/60.

The Rothschilds In America

by Edward Schuman



Lionel Rothschild



Nathan Meyer Rothschild

THE Rothschilds, without any question, have been the most eminent bankers of the world. They have been constantly in the center of Europe's great events during the past two centuries. They became bankers to empires, the financiers of the first European railroads, as well as the originators of international finance. Their influence, wealth and prestige are and have been without equal in history.

Meyer Amschel was the founder of this family of financial magnates. He was born in the Jewish ghetto of Frankfort in 1743. Jews of this period in time did not have family names. For example, they were known as, David, son of Jacob, making use of surnames only. The house they lived in on the narrow ghetto lane had a red shield along side the entrance door. Meyer Amschel took his family name from this red shield. In German, *Rothen Schilde*, thus **ROTHSCHILD**.

Although educated in the orthodox Jewish ways for the Rabbinate, he soon turned to the world of business. His brothers were merchants and peddlars of used clothing, rags and petty goods. He joined with them in this trade which was one of the few "businesses" in which Jews were allowed to work. In his journeys to the various fairs held in the general region, he made a study of the different types of coins received in trade. He soon learned which were the rare ones, the unusual ones and the ones worthy of research. At that time, only royalty or the very wealthy were coin collectors. Rothschild printed elaborately embellished lists with fine drawings and descriptions of his "rare" coins, which he had sent to the rulers of the many kingdoms and duchies throughout Europe. He won the confidence of the wealthy landgrave of Hesse. Eventually he negotiated some bills of exchange for the landgrave, and soon enlarged this banking part of his business. It is said that he managed to successfully hide the fortune of this landgrave from the French invaders in 1806 and was, through his patron's gratitude, allowed to have the almost free use of this vast sum of money for several years. By this means he laid the foundation for the vast fortune they acquired.

Five sons and several daughters survived this marriage of Meyer to his bride

Guttle. Amschel Meyer, the eldest was born in 1773 and succeeded his father as head of the Frankfort firm. Solomon, born in 1774 established the family branch at Vienna. Nathan Meyer, the most active of the brothers was born in 1777 and established the London firm. Charles, born in 1788 established the branch at Naples and James, born in 1792, the Paris branch. All sons were made Barons of the Austrian Empire in 1822.

Since this article deals with the Rothschild's dealings in America, we must jump in time to 1834.

The First Bank of the United States was chartered in 1791. Its main office was in Philadelphia and it was chartered with a capital of \$10 million dollars. It was modeled after the Bank of England and was run most conservatively. It was the depository of the funds of the United States. It acquired many enemies and when its charter came up for renewal it was defeated by the Senate. It was placed in liquidation in 1811 and by a year later stock dividends of about 98% had already been paid out and the greater part of its notes were redeemed. The Second Bank of the United States was chartered in 1826 with a capital of \$35 million dollars. It was plagued with mismanagement, embezzlement and the ensuing panics and scandals seriously damaged his operation. Nicholas Biddle emerged as its third president and he ran the bank as his own property. He defied court orders and made the bank a political issue. When Andrew Jackson removed the government deposits from the bank the end was in sight. Faced with the prospect of going out of business, Biddle obtained a state charter for the Bank of the United States from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The officers, the note designs, even the stock certificates are of similar design. The appearance, to the not too well informed, would not be different.

The old time banking firm of Baring Brothers in London had been the official bankers for the United States in Europe. Barings had become involved in the fight between the Bank of the United States and Andrew Jackson. Nathan Meyer Rothschild seized the opportunity to negotiate with the United States about becoming the agent to replace Barings. In 1834 the House of Roths-



14 Month Bank of U.S. Promisary Note signed by Nicholas Biddle and payable at the London Agency (Rothschild).

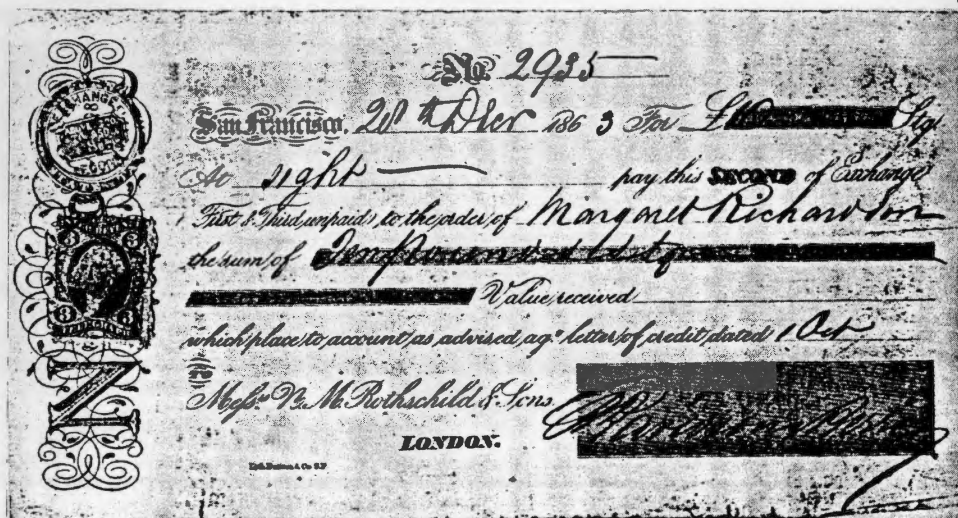
child remained loyal to the bank. During the banking crisis of 1839 they accepted all of the Bank's paper when most other banks refused to do so. They assisted the bank with a loan of 900,000 Sterling to help tide it over its difficulties. When the bank finally failed for the last time in 1841 the loss Rothschild experienced had to be tremendous. But being a private bank, without any stockholders, the exact amount has never been known. When the United States government account reverted back to Barings in 1843 the Rothschilds were not sorry or overly concerned.

Gold was discovered in California in 1848. The news traveled quickly all over the world. Mass immigration to the gold fields attracted thousands of people and the size of the strike was thought to be of vast proportion. The need to provide banking services attracted several of the old time European bankers to open offices in San Francisco. It was thought to have one of the Rothschilds brother's son sent to America to open an office. However, the reluctance of his father to have his son sent to so far off a place as California was not too agreeable. But the Rothschilds had a cousin, Benjamin Davidson, who was a young man associated

in the banking business. His father, Myer Davidson had married Nathan Meyers sister and was working in the Frankfort branch.

In February of 1849 a building was erected on the corner of Commercial and Montgomery Streets in San Francisco, and B. Davidson, Banker was proudly displayed on the shingle. Huge vaults had been constructed to house the loads of gold dust which were purchased from the miners and mine operators in exchange for legal tender. The bank also accepted deposits, arranged loans and of course had the knowledge and experience for foreign drafts and commerce.

The name was changed to N. Davidson and Company in 1850 and to Davidson and May in 1862 when a partner was taken in. The relationship lasted only one year and in 1863 Julius Berri joined the firm and it was known as Davidson and Berri. Three years later it was back to B. Davidson and Co. and it continued until it finally closed in 1878. Its local business was taken over by A. Gansel and Jeffery Cullen who had managed the firm the prior six or eight years.



Second of Exchange issued in San Francisco.

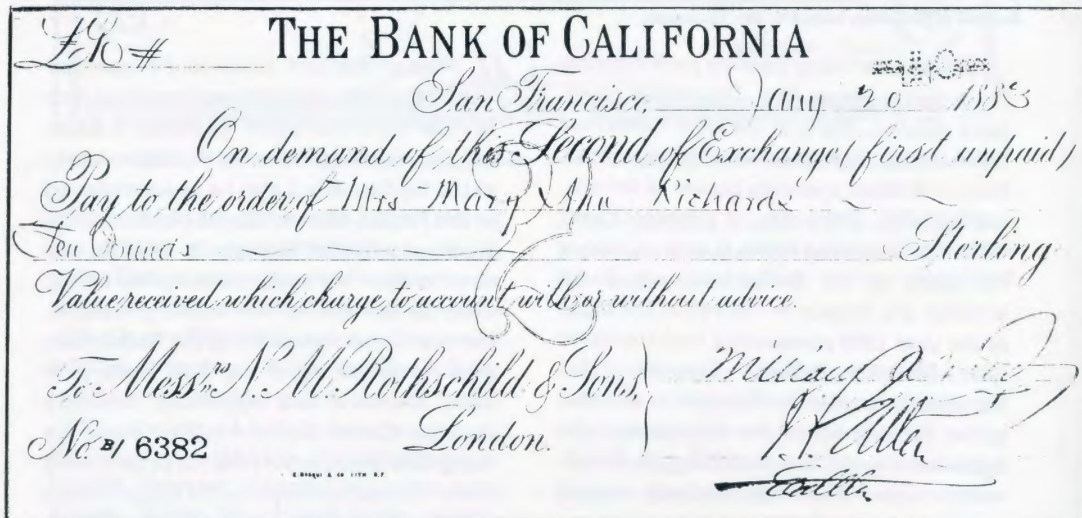
Despite the many banking panics during these hectic years the Davidsons never were affected. Many of the local banks had failed, never to reopen their doors. James King of William, a leading banker of the era, writing a few years after in retrospect said "With the exception of Mr. Davidson, who is the agent of the Rothschilds, we doubt whether any banker in this city at the close of the year 1849 possessed a cash capital of over \$100,000 dollars." Davidson also became the consul for Sardinia in addition to the banking house. He also entered into agreements with Carroll and Higgins, Sacramento bankers for the purchase of gold dust.

The reason for these large gold dust purchases came to light in a recent book on the Rothschilds titled, "The English Rothschilds" by Richard Davis. Mr. Davis states that though Nathan Meyer died in 1836, he was succeeded by his son Lionel, who expanded the Rothschild Dynasty perhaps even more than his father. Rothschild obtained the lease of the Royal Refinery in February of 1852. Under this lease and following agreements, they were authorized to refine gold and silver in the government facilities. They were empowered to present these refined bars or ingots directly to the Royal Mint and to receive payment from the Bank of England at the prescribed rate of exchange. The profit on this operation was tremendous.

August Belmont acted as the agent for the Rothschilds international banking needs in New York. He began his career in banking as an apprentice in the Frankfort house of the Rothschilds. Later he was transferred to the Naples office where he conducted the business with the Vatican. In 1837 he was sent to New York representing the family. Later he opened his own banking business, but continued representing the Rothschilds until the beginning of the 20th century. In 1844, Belmont was appointed honorary Austrian Consul General in New York, but resigned in protest over the harsh treatment of the Hungarian rebels by the brutal Vienna regime, particularly their leader, Louis Kossuth. He supported the Union during the Civil War and enlisted the aid of many European bankers and merchants in support of the north. He was active in thoroughbred horse racing, having introduced this sport in America. Belmont Race Track in New York City is named after him.

Fiscal paper on the Rothschilds is extremely difficult to obtain. There is a story that today the family is an active purchaser of any banking memorabilia of the family that may turn up. Checks or exchanges on the Davidson Bank are of the extreme rarity. Bank of the United States material does surface, mostly in England and the demand is quite keen and prices reflect the demand.

(Examples of Rothschild Banking activities follow on the next 2 pages)



London & New York.
 Rothschild's Bank
 18 April 1853

My Lady

We beg to inform your
 Ladyship that our Correspondent in
 America has sold 25 Shares of the 91
 Shares of the Baltimore & Ohio railway
 Company in the name of the Marchioness
 of Wellesley, at the price of 90½ per cent.
 amounting to £462.11.2, according to the
 annexed note, for which he has made us
 a remittance at 60 days sight, which will
 be due on the 26th of May.

We have the honor to remain

Your Ladyship's

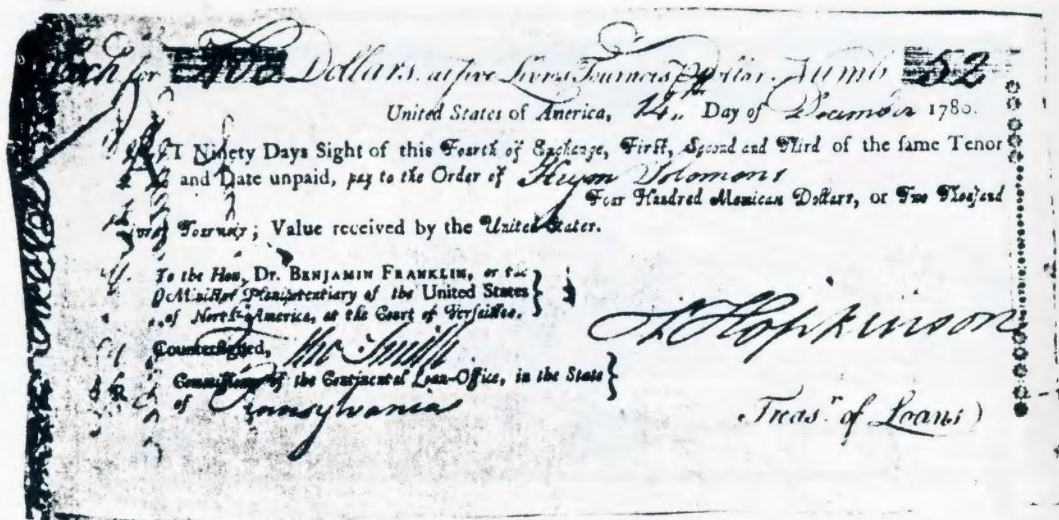
Very obedient Servants

N W Rothschild & Co

To Lady Stafford

Mariner Hotel

Rothschild letter addressed to
 Lady Stafford advising her
 that part of her stock shares in
 America were sold. The
 correspondence was hand written
 by a clerk, but signed by a
 Rothschild



In this French loan note Haym Salomon's name is spelled Solomons.

Haym Salomon



THE MAGNES MUSEUM'S
 JEWISH-AMERICAN HALL OF FAME MEDAL

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JULY 2, 1862.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. WILKINSON made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany bill S. No. 377.]

The Committee on Revolutionary Claims, to whom was referred the memorial of Haym M. Salomon for indemnity for advances of money made by his father to the United States during the revolutionary war, have had the same under consideration, and respectfully report:

The claim of the memorialist is one of undeniable merit. It is for money advanced to the revolutionary government when the public credit was exhausted, its treasury bankrupt, and *specie* almost impossible to be obtained. It has been repeatedly examined by some of the ablest committees of the two houses of Congress, and always reported upon favorably, with a bill for the relief of the memorialist; but the great magnitude of the papers and vouchers required so protracted an examination as to place it last on the calendar at each session as never to come within the reach of final action.

The facts show that Haym Salomon, the father of the memorialist, a native of Poland, settled in this country as a merchant and banker before the revolution, and was a zealous supporter of the war for independence; that he was a man of unquestioned integrity, great financial resources and ability, and enjoyed the highest confidence of our public men of the time, as is shown by the most abundant proof, as stated in the reports of the various committees; that his large private fortune and the proceeds of his extensive commercial earnings were freely applied to the use of the revolutionary government and its various public men, and the agents of foreign governments friendly to our cause, whose supplies were for the time cut off; that during the war he was imprisoned, with Stockton and others, as early as the year 1775, at New York, in the loathsome prison called the "Provost," where he contracted a disease which ended in his death just at the close of the war, and before any steps had been taken to secure the same, or by the government to reimburse him for the large amount he had advanced for its use.

When he died he left a young wife not familiar with our language, and four infant children, the youngest, the present memorialist, being only some three weeks old, at a time when all matters, both public

Liberties, shall receive the above named, and
 a charge,
 Philadelphia, July 19 1772. JOHN SMITH.

Haym Solomons,

BROKER to the Office of Finance, to the Consul General of France, and to the Treasurer of the French Army, at his Office in Front-street, between Market and Arch Streets, **BUYS** and **SELLS** on Commission

BANK Stock, Bills of Exchange on France, Spain, Holland, and other parts of Europe, the **W. I. Indies**, and inland bills, at the usual commission. — **He Buys and Sells**

Loan-Office Certificates, Continental and State Money, of this or any other State, Paymaster and Quartermaster General's Notes; these and every other kind of paper transactions (bills of exchange excepted) he will charge his employers no more than **ONE HALF PER CENT** on his Commission,

He procures Money on Loan

for a short time, and gets Notes and Bills discounted. Gentlemen and others, residing in this State, or any of the united States, by sending their orders to this Office, may depend on having their business transacted with as much fidelity and expedition, as if they were themselves present.

He receives Tobacco, Sugar, Tea, and every other sort of Goods to Sell on Commission; for which purpose he has provided proper Stores.

He flatters himself, his assiduity,

punctuality, and extensive connections in his business, as a Broker, is well established in various parts of Europe, and in the united States in particular.

All persons who shall please to favour him with their business, may depend upon his utmost exertion for their interest, and—

Part of the Money advanced, if required.

N. B. Paymaster-General's Notes taken as Cash for Bills of Exchange.

H O R S E S.

The Subscriber has removed his

HORSES to a commodious Stable in Church alley, where he has Opened a **LIVERY**. He procures and sells what choicest

"He procures money on loan. . . . He buys and sells Continental and State money . . . he buys and sells on commission bank stock, bills of exchange . . . he receives tobacco, sugar, tea . . . to sell on commission." Many of these banking functions were performed by brokers. The broker Haym Solomon (1740-86), born in Poland of Jewish parentage, played an important role during the Revolution, raising money for the Continental Congress.

HAYM M. SALOMON.

and private, were in a state of the greatest depression and confusion, and necessarily exposed to corresponding hazard and neglect. The inventory of his private estate, as filed in the probate court in Philadelphia on the 15th day of February, 1785, exhibited, among other things, the following public securities as forming part of its assets, viz:

Loan office certificates.....	\$110,233 63
Treasury certificates.....	18,244 88
Continental liquidated dollars.....	199,214 45
Commissioners' certificates	17,870 37
Virginia State certificates.....	8,166 00
Total	<u>\$353,729 43</u>

After a careful inspection of the disbursements and payments by the government from 1781 to the formation of the present government in 1789, it appears that no part of this indebtedness was ever paid to Haym Salomon or his heirs, or that any payments whatever were made to him or his representatives; and in an official statement from the First Auditor of the Treasury, in answer to questions propounded by the committee of the House of Representatives when examining the same subject, with a certified copy of these evidences of debt before him, that officer stated that no part of the sum had been paid or funded by any one since the formation of the present government. It is, therefore, conclusive to the mind of your committee that no such payment ever has been made, and that the same is still a valid claim for proper indemnity in favor of the memorialist.

It is also proven by the original checks and vouchers before your committee that Haym Salomon advanced in specie to the "superintendent of finance" of the revolutionary government, (Robert Morris,) at various times and in various sums, to the amount of some \$211,678, for which amount the original checks are before your committee, excepting two or three which are mislaid, but are well vouched for and referred to in former reports.

The evidence before your committee also proves that Haym Salomon advanced to the government six promissory notes amounting to £34,758 18s 2d Pennsylvania currency, or in federal currency, about \$92,600, for which the original receipt of M. Hillegos, continental treasurer, is presented, showing that it was for the use of the United States.

There is also before your committee the promissory note of Haym Salomon for \$20,000, payable in thirty days to the order of Robert Morris, which shows by the bank marks upon it that it was discounted by the bank and paid by Mr. Salomon at maturity, whose name is erased, and Robert Morris is still on it. There is no doubt that this note was loaned to Mr. Morris, for the reason that a receipt was given bearing even date with the note, "July 25, 1783," and there is a memorandum indorsed on the note to that effect, so specifying. And considering that Mr. Morris was at that time exclusively engaged in financiering for the government, which was greatly in need of

means, it is most likely the proceeds of this note were so applied, though the memorialist does not claim it as part of his demand against the government.

It is also proven by the vouchers before your committee, that Haym Salomon provided the means to support the ambassador of the king of Spain, Don Francisco Rendon, who was in secret alliance with the revolutionary government, and whose supplies were cut off by the British cruisers. This fact was acknowledged in an official letter from that minister to the governor-general of Cuba, and the original orders uncanceled, to the amount of 10,000 Spanish dollars, are before your committee, showing that the amount was never paid. But the memorialist does not, nor never has, asked this government to pay that sum.

All the former reports from the committees of both houses show that Haym Salomon supported from his private means many of the principal men of the revolution, who otherwise, as stated by themselves, could not have attended to their public duties, among whom are mentioned Jefferson, Madison, Lee, Steuben, Mifflin, St. Clair, Blond, Mercer, Jones, Munroe, Wilson, and others; but the package of vouchers containing the original letters and orders from these parties to Mr. Salomon, with the important confidential statements of these parties, together with many other important as well as interesting matters of fact, have all disappeared from the proper files in the case since the adjournment of last Congress, and no search has been able to find or discover them. It is supposed they have all been abstracted for the sake of the original autograph letters and signatures they embraced. But sufficient of their contents has been preserved in the former reports to show their accuracy, and the importance of the relief granted to those who devoted their whole time to the public service, and wherein the patriot Madison says, in 1783—

“The expediency of drawing bills on Virginia, even the most unquestionable, has been tried by us in vain.”

“I am fast relapsing into pecuniary distress. The case of my brethren is equally alarming.”

“I have been a pensioner for some time on the favor of Haym Salomon.”

“I am almost ashamed to reiterate my wants so incessantly to you. The kindness of our friend near the coffee-house (Haym Salomon) is a fund that will preserve me from extremities, but I never resort to it without great mortification, as he obstinately rejects all recompense. To necessitous delegates he always spares them supplies,” &c., &c.

This distressed condition of the public men of the time is corroborated by Mr. Morris, superintendent of finance, who, in 1781, wrote the president of Congress that “The treasury was so much in arrears to the servants in the public offices, that many of them could not, without payment, perform their duties, *but must have gone to jail* for debts they have contracted to enable them to live,” &c., had they not been favored with assistance.

It was in a crisis like this that Mr. Salomon not only aided the government directly, as we have seen, but sustained its public men,

HAYM M. SALOMON.

without reservation or security, trusting in the honor and gratitude of the American people when independence should have been secured.

As evidence of the ability of Haym Salomon to make the advances before stated, your committee have before them the sworn statement of the cashier of the Bank of North America, taken from its books, showing that after making all these payments and loans, his bank account, at the end of each consecutive quarter during the time referred to, averaged a surplus of from \$11,000 to \$46,000; and the same sworn statement also proves, from the same books, the advance of the large sums stated to Robert Morris; and, indeed, in all respects corroborates the financial character and respectability of the father of the memorialist. This sworn statement also proves the advances made to the various public men of the revolution before mentioned, showing the orders or checks upon which the money was paid.

The committees of the last Congress state that "in order to be satisfied how far payments of the whole, or any part of these advances or government obligations have been made, have had brought before them a full exemplification of all the revolutionary expenditures and payments anterior to the formation of the present government, but do not find that there is any evidence of such payments having been made to the father of the memorialist, or to his heirs or legal representatives after his death."

"That the accounts rendered by the superintendent of finance have been carefully examined, and no discharge of any of these obligations can be found." That "a like search has been made in the private accounts of Robert Morris, as stated upon his oath while incarcerated for debt in the year 1805, and no payments to, or charges against, Haym Salomon appear in any shape." And the First Auditor of the Treasury states officially that no such payments have been made since the formation of the present government, which is conclusive evidence that there is justly due the memorialist a large sum.

The evidence before your committee shows that the memorialist has been diligent in pursuing his claim. At the death of his father, in 1784, his brother, the eldest of the family, was but about seven years old. When he arrived at maturity he found the large real estate owned by his father all sold, and no account rendered of anything. Steps were taken to pursue such rights as were visible, and, among others, this demand; but as the evidence was scattered, and they were compelled to earn a livelihood by their industry, things moved slowly. Early in this century, his elder brother dying in the discharge of public duties, far from home, the memorialist took charge of it, and has pursued it by every proper means in his power.

Many of the survivors of the revolution, who were the compeers, and knew the value of the sacrifices made by Haym Salomon, wrote encouraging letters to the memorialist on the subject. Among these may be mentioned one from James Madison, in 1827, who, among other things, stated:

"The transactions shown by the papers you enclose *were for the support of the delegates to Congress, and the agency of your father therein*

was solicited on account OF THE RESPECT AND CONFIDENCE HE ENJOYED AMONG THOSE BEST ACQUAINTED WITH HIM," &c., and concludes with the wish that the memorialist might be properly indemnified.

But without amplifying, there is sufficient to show that the memorialist has been vigilant in the pursuit of his rights, and though he has had numerous reports made in his favor he never could get his case finally acted upon.

The aggregate of the indebtedness or demand of the memorialist against the government, and of the moneys advanced to the public men of the revolution, as shown by the papers, and recognized by all the committees of both houses, which have examined the same, may be stated thus :

Government obligations of the various species before stated	\$353,729 43
Specie advanced at various times to superintendent of finance	211,678 00
Haym Salomon's six promissory notes, £34,758, 18s. 2d, or, in federal currency, say	92,600 00
Making a total of	<u>658,007 43</u>

Besides the note of \$20,000, evidently loaned to Robert Morris, and the \$10,000 and upwards, advanced to Don Francisco Rendon, the ambassador of Spain, and an indefinite amount advanced to many of the most devoted men of the revolution, which is not enumerated or claimed by the memorialist.

The former reports in favor of the memorialist have, in every instance, allowed him a sum exceeding four hundred thousand dollars ; but in renewing his application now, at the end of a half century's delay, the memorialist states, that in consideration of the embarrassed condition of the country, he submits it to the justice of Congress to say what sum he may receive in discharge of his whole demand, and which he begs may be fixed in such way as he can dispose of it, as he wishes to do so before he is separated from those who are dear to him on earth, which his advanced years admonish him must be soon.

Your committee, in view of all the facts, and considering that his demand is just and reasonable, report the accompanying bill for the relief of the memorialist, limiting the amount to be paid to him to the sum of \$100,000 ; which is in reality but a small portion of what is justly due him, but which he is willing to take, in view of his advanced years and the present condition of the country.

The Thirtieth, Thirty-first, Thirty-second, and Thirty-eight Congresses favored paying the debt, and the Sixty-ninth Congress recommended payment to the heirs, but the recommendation never passed both houses.

Presidents Theodore Roosevelt, William H. Taft, Woodrow Wilson, Calvin Coolidge, Herbert Hoover, and Franklin Delano Roosevelt all paid tribute to the patriot's memory. A monument was erected in Chicago on December 15, 1941, as a joint memorial to George Washington, Robert Morris, and Haym Salomon. William Salomon, Haym's great-grandson, gave \$2,500 as the first contribution toward the statue.



The monument in Chicago erected to Haym Salomon (left), George Washington, and Robert Morris.

Fishbaum's ESP

Ephraim Kishon

IT WAS BLIND CHANCE that revealed the extraordinary powers of Inspector Hananya Fishbaum of ITI (Income Tax Intelligence).

It all started when one Freddy Mizrahi, a tractor dealer, declared the sum of IL413 and six agorot as being his annual income for 1975-76, while at the same time buying up the odd side of Yarkon Street and a pair of trained dolphins.

Tipped off by an unidentified source, the ITI started collecting information about Mizrahi. It laid on a couple of tecs to tail the tractors, got in touch with Interpol, consulted a psychologist, and kept feeding its own giant computer with the incoming data. Eventually these efforts bore fruit: ITI concluded that Mizrahi must have concealed a part of his income.

The ITI squad, under the personal command of Inspector H. Fishbaum, launched its raid on the suspect's lavish apartment at 5.05 a.m. sharp. Swift and efficient as ever, they made straight for the wardrobe and came up with 20,000 Swiss Francs, and secret accounts showing concealed profits of IL340,000 a month.

With his eyes boring right through the top button of Mizrahi's pyjamas, Inspector Fishbaum said: "IL413.06 — ha?"

"Please," said the trembling Mizrahi, "please, I was about to come clean today. I meant to call on my tax official this very morning and..."

"No kidding," said Fishbaum sarcastically. "I bet all your tractors together couldn't have drag-

ged you there, Mr. Mizrahi."

"I haven't got any tractors," whispered the man with pale lips, "and my name is Beanstock."

WELL, TO ERR is human. It turned out the squad had pounced on the wrong wardrobe. Fishbaum ordered his men to arrest Beanstock, and asked where in that case the tractor man lived.

Beanstock had fainted, however, so Fishbaum rang the next door and an elderly woman appeared.

"Sorry about the early hour," the inspector apologized. "We're from the ITI, and we wanted to ask where..."

The woman screamed once and rushed into the bedroom. "Shmuel!" she yelled, "They're here! The cheque-books! Quick!"

By the time our gallant squad reached the bedroom, they found that Shmuel had swallowed three cheque-books of a respectable foreign bank, and they only just managed to salvage the key of the safe which had stuck in his throat. Shmuel's D-Marks turned up between "Laches" and "Lox" in the Jewish Encyclopaedia. Mrs. Shmuel, who just stood there mumbling, "I told you so, Shmuel, I told you we'd have to declare *something*..." turned out to have \$30 in her hair by way of rollers.

"Book 'em!" said Fishbaum, and himself leapt nimbly up the flight of stairs to the third floor, where he found the Mizrahi apartment by looking at nameplates.

Tricky to the last, the tractor man tried to evade arrest by hanging himself in the bathroom, but they cut him down. They discovered his books in the freezer, and after thawing them out perceived his annual income to be not IL413.06 as stated, but IL12m. Next they removed a wobbly tile in the kitchen and hit upon 15 pounds of enriched uranium. There's serendipity for you.



Lisa Mishli

ISRAEL'S WINE INDUSTRY is as ancient — and as modern — as the history of Israel itself. Noah planted the first vineyard in Israel and drank of its fruits. Joshua and Caleb, the scouts Moses sent into the land of Canaan, returned bearing a great cluster of grapes — evidence of a fertile new homeland. And the symbolic depiction of that event is today the trademark of Carmel Wines, Israel's largest wine manufacturer.

The Carmel Winery in Rishon Le-Zion, south-east of Tel Aviv, was established a century ago through the support of Baron Edmond de Rothschild. Together with his financial contributions to the early Zionist settlers in Palestine, Rothschild sent experts and choice grape cuttings from his personal vineyards in France.

Before long, the vineyards were blossoming and bearing fruit, and so the modern wine industry in the Land of Israel was born.

Since its founding, Carmel has produced kosher wines. Rabbi Yedidia Yanovsky has supervised the winery for 35 years and signs the kashrut certificate affixed to every case of Carmel wine.

"According to Jewish Law," he says "grapevines may not be picked for the first three years. Workers who harvest the grapes may be non-Jews, but all winery employees must be Jews who observe the Sabbath.

"All Carmel wines are in fact kosher for Pesach since they are produced through the natural fermentation of the sugar in the grapes. Natural yeast sediment is collected and reintroduced to the wine at specific stages during processing."

Indeed, this is actually the method required by international wine-making standards.

Designated areas where workers may eat bread and non-kosher foods keep the winery free of *hametz* year round. Carmel no longer uses recycled bottles, so that all bottles filled today are new and thus meet Pesach kashrut regulations.

Also in accordance with Jewish law, once a year Rabbi Yanovsky conducts a ceremony in which a specific portion of the winery's production is spilled in observance of the tithing laws.

IT SEEMS LOGICAL, therefore, that "the overwhelming majority of Carmel consumers are Jews looking to buy both a kosher wine and an Israeli product," says Carmel export manager Moshe Baer.

Despite competition from kosher wine manufacturers abroad, foreign sales of Carmel wines in 1983 amounted to some \$4 million, half of which came from the United States and Canada.

"The rest is distributed among nearly all the countries of the world," says Baer, pointing to a wall map covered with pins marking all foreign markets.

Carmel has also penetrated non-Jewish markets. Last year 350,000 liters of table wines were shipped in tanks to Sweden and Japan for bottling and distribution in those countries. "Although Carmel represents only 1.5 per cent of the wines imported by Japan, we consider this a formidable marketing achievement," says Baer.

"WE ARE ABLE to compete in the international wine market because the quality of Carmel wines equals that of wines produced abroad," says Kobi Gat, a qualified wine-taster who has been at the winery for the past nine years, after having spent seven years at

the Wine Institute in nearby Rehovot and a year of specialized training in France.

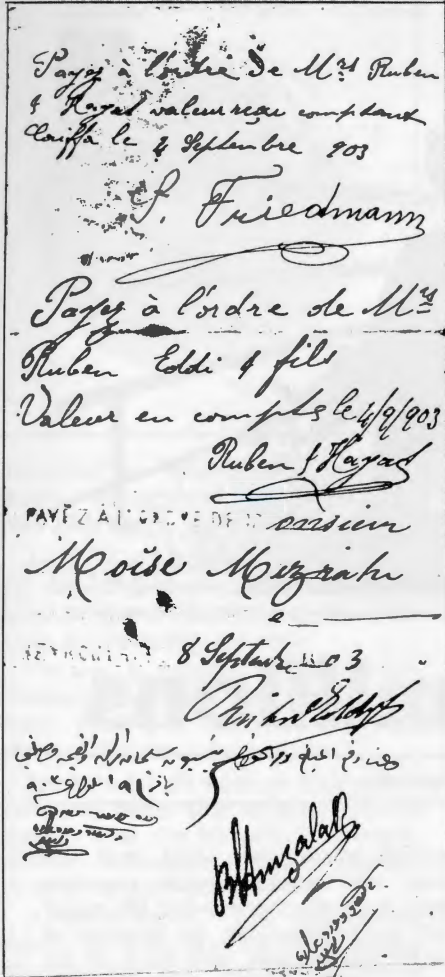
The Wine Institute, together with the Volcani Institute of Agricultural Research, have studied and determined the varieties of grapes best suited to Israel's climatic and soil conditions, as well as the optimal stage for harvesting.

Israeli scientists have effectively eliminated all viruses and pests harmful to the vines and grapes: "The exceptional quality of Carmel wines reflects the technology used to produce the finest grape possible," says Gat.

Israel's varieties are the same as those found throughout the world: "The European Common Market requires that wines be identified according to the region in which the grapes are grown. Hence, such hybrid names as Sauvignon Blanc Galil, Chenin Blanc Samson, Grenache Rose Dan and Petit Sirah Dan," explains Gat, pointing to a map showing Israel's wine-growing regions.

Carmel received gold medals for its Kadmon wine and Grape Juice Rose, and silver medals for the President's Sparkling Wine, Emerald Riesling, and two of its brandies.

The medals and certificates which adorn the walls of the Carmel Winery attest to more than the excellence of Carmel Wines: they attest to Israel's success in blending Jewish history and tradition in producing a thoroughly modern creation.





Rabbi Meir Yehuda Getz... 'No one ever imagined in 1967 that the Wall would attract as many people as it does'

Rabbi to millions

by Greer Fay Cashman

FOR MOST practising ministers of religion, a congregation of 300 families provides enough day-to-day problems to keep them busy for all of their waking hours.

But Meir Yehuda Getz is not involved in the same variety of activities as his fellow spiritual leaders. There simply wouldn't be enough time in the day for him to give personal counseling to all his congregants, attend circumcisions, *barmitzvahs*, weddings and funerals, organize religion school classes, visit the sick and perform all other duties that are expected of a rabbi with a congregation.

Yet for all that, Getz has the largest Jewish congregation in the world. It is also the most unique of congregations, incorporating the whole spectrum of Judaism. Getz's congregants come from the East and the West. They include black-coated Hassidim, middle-of-the-road Orthodox Jews, Conservative and Reform Jews, as well as totally peripheral Jews who are barely aware of their religious identity.

It is a transient congregation with perhaps not more than a hundred

regular worshippers. And even for those who attend services regularly there is no membership fee. On major holy days, there can be upwards of 12,000 congregants, who flock to his synagogue from all over the world.

One more fact about this unusual synagogue: it isn't actually a synagogue at all. For Meir Yehuda Getz is the *Rav HaKotel* — the rabbi of the Western Wall, the focus of Jewish yearning for thousands of years.

Throughout the centuries, the Wall — all that remains of the Second Temple — has been of significance to Jews, but never more so than in the period from 1948 to 1967, a period when it was in Jordanian hands and forbidden to Jews.

When the Israel Defense Forces reunited Jerusalem in the Six Day War of 1967, triumphant, battle-weary soldiers made directly for the Wall. And even those with no religious background, stood and wept.

BUT NOT all those who fought in the Six Day War survived to witness the reunification of Jerusalem and the

The Western Wall and the two mosques. The legend "Temple Mount" in Hebrew and English.

Reverse

A reconstructed three dimensional map of Jerusalem discovered in the floor mosaic of a 6th century church ruin. Jerusalem and her walls are shown together with the spires and representative buildings. (The Temple Mount area is seen on the upper part of the map.) The legend "Jerusalem" in Hebrew and English.



return of the Western Wall to Jewish hands. Among those who died in battle was Getz's son.

At the time, Getz, his wife and their 10 other children were living on Moshav Keren Ben Zimra, of which Getz is a founding member.

"It was a comfort to have other children," he says, "but no matter how many you have, none can take the place of the one who has gone."

Immersed in his work on the moshav, Getz was better able to cope with the tragedy than was his wife, who sought comfort in frequent trips to Jerusalem to pray at the Western Wall.

After a while, Getz decided to relieve some of the strain on his wife by moving from the Galilee moshav to Jerusalem. The couple left their older children at the moshav, and brought the younger ones with them to Jerusalem, where Getz approached the religious authorities for a job.

He was offered the position of *Rav Hakotel* primarily because the authorities wanted to ensure the religious character of the site and to guarantee that there would be a daily *minyan*: "No one ever imagined in 1967," he recalls, "that the Wall would attract as many people as it does."

In 1967, much of the area in front of the Wall was a mass of rubble. This did not deter the tens of thousands of visitors who flocked to the site, which has since become a symbol of Jewish unity, Jewish pride and Jewish aspirations.

FROM THE OUTSET, Getz did not have to worry about assembling ten men for the prayers recited thrice daily.



A new fashion evolved almost immediately — *barmitzvah* ceremonies at the Wall. These ceremonies are conducted twice a week, with between 50 and 80 a week during the winter months and 300 to 400 in summer.

Whole families come from abroad to celebrate such *simchas* while for Israelis, bus-loads of relatives and friends descend on the Wall from all over the country for such occasions.

With a smile lighting his cherubic face and a twinkle in his eye, Getz acknowledges that families who choose to have a *barmitzvah* at the Wall are not totally motivated by spiritual implications.

"There are financial considerations, too," he says. "In a synagogue, they have to pay a fee to the officiating rabbi. Here, it costs them nothing — although if they want to give a donation, we won't refuse it."

Catering costs can also be considerably reduced by having a *barmitzvah* at the Wall. The usual custom after the religious ceremony is for the family and guests to gather at the far end of the flag-stoned plaza facing the Wall for a light buffet that has been brought from home. Which represents quite a saving on the usual food extravaganza associated with a Jewish *simcha*.

But Getz does not encourage weddings at the Wall, although he has been known to turn a blind eye when bridal canopies have been set up without prior permission. "If someone puts up a *chuppa*, we won't take it down," he says. Such an act, he says, would be sacrilegious.

Getz estimates that about three million people visit the Wall each year. The biggest flood of visitors came between 1967 and 1970. This was followed by decline up to the 1973 Yom Kippur War, after which the Wall again became a focal point for pilgrimage.

NOT ONLY JEWS visit the Wall. It is a tradition to write supplications on scraps of paper and insert them in the Wall, and according to Getz, among those who stuff petitions into the cracks are Moslems and Christians.

The Knesset



State Medal

GETZ OBSERVES everything that goes on in the plaza from the arched windows of his small office located high in the ramparts positioned at right angles to the Wall. The office is adjacent to Kollel Haidrah, where scores of young men gather day and night to study Jewish texts.

Whenever he has the time, Getz joins them. "I'm the oldest student" he quips. His own office is very simply furnished, containing a small ark and an extensive library of religious books, framed quotations from the Scriptures in the Sephardi tradition and a large painting, executed 14 years ago by S. Raphaely, of pilgrims dancing in the ancient Temple.

Getz describes his role as primarily that of an administrator, but he nonetheless performs many non-administrative tasks. For one thing, his door is always open to visitors: "Many people who don't have a rabbi of their own to consult, find their way to me. There are a lot of penitents who are at the beginning of their road back to Judaism. I help to point them in the right direction."

There have been vast physical improvements in the area since Getz took office, but he says many essential facilities are still lacking. These include a restaurant, a post office and a multi-lingual information center. He is confident, however, that they will eventually materialize.

1967 Victory Coin of Israel - 100 Israel Pounds



SURPRISINGLY, there are still numerous Israelis who have never visited the Wall. But while some members of the older generation may never see its towering majesty, most of the younger generation will. It has become customary for teachers to bring groups of school children to the site as part of an historical, geographical and religious trip. The Wall is also the assembly point for swearing-in ceremonies of most of the Israel Defense Forces' fighting units.

Among non-Israelis, the Wall has become a symbol of commitment. Many who did not have their *barmitzvah* at age 13 discover that it's never too

late to become a man — they can still have a *barmitzvah* at the Wall. Even octogenarians have made up for lost time and added new meaning to their lives with a late *barmitzvah* at the Wall.

A whole group of senior citizens did so on Tu B'Shvat — the New Year for Trees — an occasion which involves a special symbolism in establishing roots.

The Western Wall is an impressive piece of masonry. Visually, that's all it is. Why then does it have so magnetic a pull on so many? Getz ventures the opinion that all of us have a need to bare our souls, without necessarily getting advice: "The Wall has ears," he says. "But it has no mouth."

Bnei Beraq, Israel Or Ha'Chaim Girls College.



These were issued by the Board of Directors of the school and minted by the Shekel Co. of Tel Aviv. They were for presentation to wealthy patrons of the school. Perhaps 10 Silver & only two Gold are known. The obverse depicts the main school buildings and the campus. The reverse has a scene of the Western Wall and the inscription in Hebrew, "The Western Wall, the last remains of our holy temple."

1968 - Moshe Dayan - Yitzhak Rabin Victory Medal 22mm Gold. Struck as a medalllic tribute to the former chiefs of Staff of the State of Israel. Reverse depicts the Western Wall of Jerusalem.



The ALEPH BETH Page

...Dedicated to the Beginner

by Edward Janis

Question: What is the oldest coin struck in Jerusalem? Dr. M.K., Mineola, N.Y.

Answer: It would have to be one of the Yehud coins. The earliest period was under Persian rule circa 360-331 B.C.E. followed by the conquest of Alexander the Great. The Macedonians rule lasted until his death. After a dozen years of squabbling, the successful Ptolomy took control of the lands of Judea which of course included Jerusalem.

In the light of the foregoing, we now examine the coinage. The oldest piece, of which two are now known, is the British Museum dracm that depicts a bearded diety seated on a winged wheel and bears the legend YHD accross the upper field. It may possibly be even struck in Jerusalem. This image has been explained as a representation of the Jewish God. I doubt however, whether this is a product of Jerusalem.

Long ago, I stated that the lily was the mintmark of Jerusalem. I also believe that the Jews would never accept or tolerate any of the "male head" Jewish Diety, Ptolomy, Pallas Athene or other human or god like figures that appear on the majority of these minute coins. Although any of the coins could possibly have been struck in Jerusalem, I feel that those coins that have the lily, and the falcon (M8) were struck in Jerusalem because they donot contain any human forms either gods or portraits in strict observance of the second Commandment regarding graven images.

Question: Which is the rarer coin in the 5 IL commemorative series, the proof Seafaring of 1963 or the Museum proof of 1964? R.T. Atlanta, Ga.

Answer: First off, in numismatic circles we are very careful about classification of the word "rare". In ancient coinage, rare is usually reserved to coins which have a common obverse and reverse, not necessarily from the same dies. Also the number of known specimens are ten or less. Among todays collectors of United States early large cents, rare is 31 to 75 coins of a given combination of dies vis. Obverse 1 Reverse B for a given year. In a modern issue, a mintage that is 10-12% of a normal years issue is called "rare".

If a government turned out an average of 10,000,000 cents, pence, pesos, zolotnys etc. in an average year, and in one year only 900,000 pieces were put into circulation, the average collector would then be telling his friends that he had a rare coin.

The Seafaring and the Museum both had an identical final mintage of 4500 pieces. Let's call this a scarce number. You didnot ask me which piece sells for more money. Which piece is scarcer? Let us agree that scarcer means that there are less coins of a given issue in existance.

The Seafaring was an issue where large blocks of these coins were cornered in Israel. They were sold to a dealer in the United States. The price of the coin was raised drastically by the same dealer's buy and sell offers in the numismatic publications. Also many original subscribers were not able to obtain their coins at issue prices.

The largest convention ever held by A.I.N.A. was the Greater Miami Coin Convention held at the Deauville Hotel in January of 1980. A bourse of over 200 dealers from all over the United States and several European countries was in attendance. (see the SHEKEL Volume XIII NO.2). A bullion marketing reporting service was in attendance and each time a new high of gold and silver prices was announced, a hush came over the crowd. We saw hundreds of rolls of uncirculated silver coins go into a popular silver buyer dealer's shipping cases, destined for the smelters. Not a few 5 IL Israel commemorative coins were included. A New York bullion dealer told me that he personally melted in excess of 1100 Israel 5 IL coins. The Seafaring was selling in excess of its silver intrinsic value. It would have been foolish to melt a Seafaring. As for the others, the melting pot beckoned. The logical conclusion is that the Israel Museum proof coin is scarcer than the Seafaring.....



ISRAEL

medals OF THE
OLD-NEW LAND

BY DAVID T
ALEXANDER

No discussion of Israel numismatics could be complete without mention of the country's ambitious medal program. To some beginning collectors, medals can be something of a mystery or even a nuisance. Many are round like coins but are not money; others exhibit odd sizes and shapes.

Medals are commemorative or artistic pieces, whose purpose is not to serve as media of exchange, but to recall events, places and persons, or to show the artistic intent of their sculptor or designer. In a word, medals are numismatic objects of both significance and beauty.

Israel's first official medals were struck for the 10th Anniversary of Independence in 1958 under the urging of the ubiquitous Leo Kadman. Eager to extract numismatic revenge for the defeat of the Jewish Revolt and destruction of the Temple in A.D. 70, Kadman had sketched an idea to accomplish this as early as 1948.

Among the most famous of ancient coins was the Roman "Judaea Capta" pieces struck under Vespasian and his son Titus to celebrate their defeat of the Jews in the A.D. 66-70 war. These coins showed a Jewish captive and seated mourning Jewess under the date palm, or a Roman legionnaire towering over the mourning Jewess.

Kadman placed the first Judaea Capta design in a circle of chain, Gal-ta Jehuda in Hebrew above meaning Exile of Judaea. On the opposite side he placed a seven-frond date palm with an Israeli woman holding a sheaf of newly harvested wheat at left, a Jewish worker at left with Latin ISRAEL LIBERATA, "Israel Liberated" above.

A commemorative legend of 10 years of freedom appeared around this bold design with 10 Stars of David. As struck by John Pinches Ltd. in Britain, the gold and silver medals bore a somewhat ambivalent edge inscription ISRAEL GOVERNMENT APPROVED ISSUE 1948-1958.

Inspired by the sell-out success of this issue, the Israel government launched ongoing series of what are classified as State, Commissioned and Presentation medals. Many are struck in Israel by medal firms under contract with the government, or by mints abroad.

State issues are those struck for, and sold exclusively through IGCMC; Commissioned issues are struck by the corporation for sale or other distribution at a fair, exposition or other event, although a remainder may one day be sold through IGCMC. Presentation pieces are privately struck for distribution by government bodies or societies, rather than for sale to the public.

The State and Commissioned medals now number in the hundreds of recognized types, struck usually in Israeli sterling silver (.935 fine), bronze and occasionally in gold. One exciting issue, for Israel's 25th Anniversary of Independence, was also struck in pure platinum as well.

For the Judaic or topical collector, these medals present a fantastic opportunity to learn about Israel's history, government, culture, development, health care, transportation and religion.

Among the most popular issues were the 1959 Medal of Valor recalling the violent beginning of settle-



The Kneset state medal of 1981 and 1982 features the Knesset edifice on the obverse and a united Jerusalem on the reverse.



A stylized canopy with chalice and the ketuba folio appears on the obverse of the 1978 wedding state medal. An antique marriage ring appears on the reverse.



The ominous yellow badge forced on the Jews of Europe by the Nazis is shown on the reverse of the 1975 state medal honoring Jewish volunteers serving in the British forces.

ment in Upper Galilee; the several 1961 Bar-Mitzvah of the State medals; Masada medals recalling the excavations of that historic mountain fortress in 1964; the 1976 Operation Jonathan medal recalling the incredible rescue of Jewish captives from Entebbe, Uganda; and the recent generic medals for wedding, birth and retirement.

Updated and improved versions of the Judaea Capta-Israel Liberata medals have also appeared over the decades since 1958, as have medals involving such American organizations as B'nai B'rith, Hasassah, ORT, Zionist Organization of America, United and Combined Jewish Appeals and even the Pentecostal Fellowship.

The Harp Competitions, the Arthur Rubenstein Piano Competitions, singing festivals all mark landmarks in the world of music. Designs by Marc Chagall and Pablo Picasso have also added significantly to the beauty and appeal of Israel's medals.

Besides their beauty and significance in both ancient and modern history, the coins, medals and paper money of Israel have another vital feature: affordability. In a world of spiraling prices for rarities and of incessant quarrels over fine points of grading, Israel stands like a calm oasis in a numismatic desert.

Of course there are expensive pieces and some true rarities, but most of Israel's numismatic issues can be afforded on a limited budget. The money thus spent will bring in a rich reward of history, art and varied beauties that will more than repay the interest shown.

The list of available medals is long, and the new issues being announced by IGCMC are the source of endless interest among collectors. Further information on all official Israel issues may be obtained from the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corp., 5 Ahad Haam St., Jerusalem 91022, Israel; or 350 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10118.



The Sea of Galilee and Capernaum are the subject of an Israeli state medal issued in 1981 in .935 silver and in bronze.

These medals present a fantastic opportunity to learn about Israel's history, government, culture and religion.

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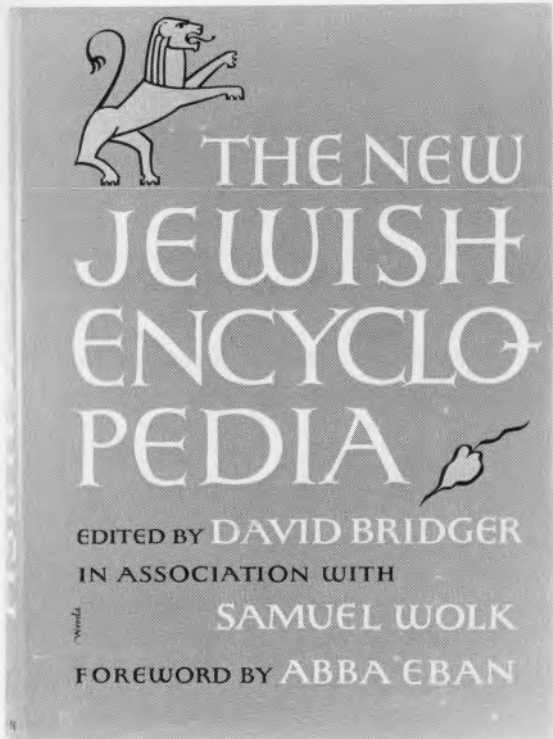
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CONDUCTED BY *Stacks*

April 27, 28 & 29 - 7:00 P.M.

ANCIENTS AUCTION

BY EMPIRE COIN CO.

Sat. April 30th - 4:30 P.M.

MEDALS EXONUMIA AUCTION

BY NASCA

Sunday May 1st - 1:00 P.M.

CONVENTION HOURS:

FRI. & SAT. 10:00 A.M.- 7:00 P.M.

Sun. 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

SECURITY BY

JOHN C. MANDEL SECURITY BUREAU

EXHIBITS — BOURSE — EDUCATIONAL FORUM

For further information:

MOE WEINSCHEL

P.O. Box 277, Rockaway Park, NY 11694, (718) 634-9266